

(a) whether new norms for vehicle insurance are going to be adopted from next financial year which would not be based only on purchase value of the vehicle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the criteria on which the new insurance policy will be based; and

(d) whether Government have fixed any criteria or it will be left at the discretion of individual insurance company which may lead to arbitrariness?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Presently, vehicle insurance is a class of business regulated by tariffs as determined by the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC). IRDA has issued a roadmap to de-tariff all categories of general insurance business, including vehicle insurance, with effect from 1st January, 2007. Thereafter, every insurer would have to develop its own scientific basis of rating the risks, which would have to be filed with the IRDA who would ensure that the basis is technically sound. The basis would also have to be fair between the insurer and the insured. Insurers are also required to file the details of each product with IRDA for scrutiny to ensure that the product is neither arbitrary nor technically unsound.

Maintenance and rehabilitation of water bodies

***96. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:**

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any census on the water bodies in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that over the years the water bodies have decayed, if so, what are the reasons for such a decay and which are the regions where such a decay is faster;

(c) which are the Centre, State and District level organizations responsible for the maintenance and rehabilitation of such water bodies; and whether any responsibility has been fixed for the decay in water bodies;

(d) whether Government have any plan to revive these water bodies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Government has not conducted any census specifically for water bodies. However the 3rd census was conducted with the reference year 2000-01 covering tanks, ponds, shallow and deep tubewells, dugwells, etc. used for irrigation. The report was published in November 2005.

(b) Yes Sir. Water bodies have decayed over the years. This is mainly due to siting of the tanks, poor management including lack of maintenance, degradation of Catchment, encroachment etc. According to 3rd census, there was a loss of 0.98 million hectare of created irrigation potential. Out of this, 0.55 million hectare potential loss is from the southern region consisting states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

(c) Since water is State subject, maintenance and rehabilitation of such water bodies are being done by the State Governments.

(d) and (e) The Government has launched a Pilot Scheme for "National Project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January 2005. The water bodies having culturable command area of more than 40 hectares and upto 2000 hectares are included under the Scheme in one or two districts in each States. The restoration of 1076 water bodies has been approved in 24 districts of 14 States under the Scheme. The total culturable command area of 2.99 lakh hectares is to be restored with an estimated cost of Rs 296.8705 crores to be shared by Centre and State in the ratio of 3:1. States and districts covered under the Scheme are given in the Statement (See below). The expansion of the Scheme in the Eleventh Plan will be through external assistance.

Statement

State-wise approved district projects under the Pilot Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of District	No. of water bodies included	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Culturable command area (in ha.)	Additional potential (in ha.)	Central share released (Rs. in crore)			State Total
							2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	Andhra Pradesh	Mahabub Nagar	224	32.84	20650	6196	2.44	2.7	9.7500	14.8900
		Anantpur	37	13.77	6322.3	2219.5		7.6625	1.3300	8.9925
2	Chhattisgarh	Kabir Dham	10	2.236	1888	740.75		1.1058		1.1058
3	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	17	6.5512	5112	1829		2.654		2.6540
		Banaskantha	25	7.6653	5192	2289		3.1		3.1000
4	HP	Mandi	13	1.0401	1165	815.4		0.312	0.4681	0.7801
5	J & K	Kupwara	22	3.0588	1174	1019		1.275		1.2750
6	Jharkhand	Saraikela	22	2.7972	1143.1	1104.1	0.33	0.649		0.9790
		Palamu	38	8.5928	3679.51		1.17	0.525		1.6950
7	Karnataka	Gulbarga	117	35.537	21989	8863	4.42	10.13	6.0500	20.6000
		Bangalore Rural	182	38.068	153579.3	78072.7	1	6.95	10.3000	18.2500
8	Kerala	Palakkad	10	1.3753	544.7	177		0.6		0.6000
		Pathanamthitta	13	1.404	589.89	178.32		0.526		0.5260

9	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh Shivpuri	5 65	3.923 41.28	2920 18302	712 8624	0.70 15.00	0.7000 15.0000	1.4000 15.0000	16.4 13.831
10	Maharashtra	Beed	32	36.8828	12596	8897	13.831		13.8310	13.831
11	Orissa	Ganjam	68	12.82	14207	6835	1.14	6.81		7.9500
		Gajapati	59	6.01	9388	4701	0.55	3.19	3.7400	11.69
12	Rajasthan	Ajmer	4	4.489	3301	558	2.25		2.2500	
		Pali	1	2.45	1461	308	1.5		1.5000	3.75
13	Tamil Nadu	Sivagangai	8	1.222	702.42	153.23	0.458		0.4580	
		Villupuram	38	9.372	4462.9	1178.15	3.5145		3.5145	3.9725
14	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	15	4.934	1698	2028.6	0.74	0.565	1.3050	
		South-24 Paraganas	51	18.552	6615.19	6222.69	0.21	1.2	1.4100	2.715
<hr/>										
Total	14		1076	296.8705	296682.3	147401	12.00	87.2078	28.5981	127.8059 127.8058